

ABSTRACT

The present invention is a system and method for user-controlled on-line transactions. A user computer sends a request to purchase to a merchant computer. The merchant computer sends transaction data and an identifier indicative of an authentication methodology to the user computer and a clearinghouse computer. The purchaser proffers his or her biometric identifier to the user computer. If proffered biometric identifier matches a biometric identifier stored only on the user computer, the user computer sends an authentication dataset of purchaser identifying information associated with the authentication identifier and transaction information to the clearinghouse computer. The clearinghouse computer applies the authentication methodology associated with the authentication identifier to the authentication dataset of purchaser identifying information received from the user computer and to an authentication dataset of purchaser identifying information stored on the clearinghouse computer to authenticate the purchaser. If the purchaser is authenticated, the transaction is authorized by the clearinghouse without any purchaser registration data being provided to the merchant.